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# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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ADVANCE ISSUE

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This is the first issue of a regular publication designed to inform you about events and conditions in Austria. Our policy calls for a factual presentation of interesting and important news. Whenever opinions are expressed, they will be plainly labelled as such and fully identified as to source.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION is addressed to persons interested in many aspects of world affairs, and so covers a broad variety of subject matter. We will, however, place greater emphasis on any field of Austrian affairs in which our readers express sufficient interest. We invite your use of the enclosed reply card to help us serve your needs and interests more fully.

For those who wish more detailed or extensive information on any matter pertaining to Austria, we will be glad to answer special requests. Inquiries should be addressed to: Dr. Martin Fuchs, Chief of Information Department, Austrian Consulate-General, 683 Fifth Avenue, New York 22.

**AUSTRIAN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.** Following the suspension of the London negotiations for an Austrian treaty, the Austrian cabinet has issued a statement expressing regret at the delays in settlement caused by Russian support of Yugoslavian territorial and reparations demands, and voiced its hope for an early resumption of the discussions. At the same time, the Cabinet reaffirmed its determination not to make any concessions on the question of reparations or boundary adjustments. The 1937 frontier was fixed by a plebiscite and sanctioned by international recognition. At the Moscow conference in November, 1943, the Foreign Ministers of the U.S., the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom pledged the restoration of Austria's prewar frontiers. At Potsdam, in 1945, the American-Russian-British agreement declared that "reparations should not be exacted from Austria."

The negotiations for an Austrian treaty were begun in January, 1947 and recently were suspended after 110 meetings. Despite the failure to reach a conclusive agreement, notable progress was achieved in two fields. First, on the thorny problem of so-called "German Assets" in Austria, Russia had tempered her demands and the Western Powers had raised their offers, bringing compromise into view. Second, during the London Conference the Soviet delegation agreed to permit Austria to acquire arms and military equipment outside her own boundaries. Russia had previously insisted that Austria's armed forces be supplied only by armament works and industries within Austria. Austrian public opinion has long been united on the need to establish and maintain a well-armed and mobile military force to preserve law and order after the

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withdrawal of occupation forces.

Although all progress was momentarily cancelled by the Soviet insistence on Yugoslavian claims, these claims remain the last major area of disagreement which needs settlement.

**COSTS OF ALLIED OCCUPATION.** On May 20th, Chancellor Figl submitted a note of protest to the occupying powers, claiming that the cost of the occupation, set at 10.5% of the Austrian budget for 1948, or about 597.4 million schillings, is a ruinous amount. He stated that Austria was unconditionally opposed to the continuance of this burden which in three years has cost the country 3.2 billion schillings. Of this amount, 1.8 billion schillings was paid to Russia. Alone among the occupying powers, the U.S. has restored to Austria the money received for occupation costs, and only this generosity, said Chancellor Figl, has permitted Austria to survive. The Chancellor pointed out that Austria could not be blamed for the delay in peace settlements, since it did not even participate in negotiations except when called upon by the other powers. Chancellor Figl protested the injustice of this situation, recalling that Austria was the first nation to fall victim to German aggression, and stated that continued occupation represented a illegal violation of Austria's rights. He said that the true reasons for the continued occupation were irrelevant to Austria's own interests, and he did not feel that his country should be held responsible for conditions not of its own making.

**MEDAL AWARDED TO AMERICANS.** The city of Vienna has issued a medal in expression of its gratitude to those who helped Viennese children after the war. The medal portrays a seated woman embracing a boy and a girl, with the inscription, "The children of Vienna thank their friends." American benefactors who have been awarded the medal in recognition of their assistance to Austrian children are ex-President Herbert Hoover, Cardinal Spellman, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and the directors of the Care mission in Austria, Col. Hynes and Major Murry.

**DELEGATION OF RAILROAD WORKERS PROTESTS DETAINMENTS.** A delegation from the Austrian railroad unions visited Minister of the Interior Helmer on May 14th and asked his intervention on behalf of the many Austrian railroad employees detained by the Soviet authorities. Minister Helmer promised to take every action within his power to end this condition.

**SOCIALIST MINISTER PROTESTS SEIZURE OF CITIZENS.** Oscar Helmer, Minister of the Interior, before a meeting of the Socialist Party at Krems, pointed out that in many regions of Austria, citizens were subject to seizure without warning, and kidnappings in full daylight were not rare. He called for an end to this procedure, comparing it to the tactics of the Nazis, and demanded the release of Socialist State Assemblyman Gruber, who had been liberated from Nazi concentration camps only to be seized anew. Minister Helmer praised the spirit of Socialist workers and of the Austrian people in general for resisting Communist pressures which are especially strong in plants under Russian management (USIA factories). He further asked a speedy end to negotiations among the Allies about the future of Austria, stating that political and personal insecurity were impeding economic reconstruction. He attacked especially the new delays in arriving at a treaty introduced by Yugoslavia's territorial and reparations demands. Minister Helmer also pointed out that the complications of the 4-zone occupation and arbitrary measures of military administrators are serious handicaps to civil legislative and administrative procedures.

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**HISTORY OF FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP.** The Austrian Government Printing Office has produced at the request of the U.S. Army Headquarters in Vienna a 220-page de luxe volume in English, tracing the history of the group commanded by Gen. Mark W. Clark. Maps and illustrations help relate the story of the victorious operations from December 16, 1944 to May 2, 1945. The entire edition was immediately sold out.

**DANUBE TRAFFIC INTERRUPTED FOR RUSSIAN MANEUVERS.** A 25-kilometer stretch of the Danube River near Tulln was closed late in May while Russian military maneuvers were being held. Farmers of the region were forbidden to work their lands in this area during the period of the maneuvers, and many expressed fears for the possible effect on crop harvests. As no advance notice had been given that river traffic would be shut off, many Whitsuntide vacationers travelling by folding canoe (a national pastime in Austria) were driven off the river. Disappointed vacationers expressed regret that the maneuvers had to be timed to coincide with the brief Whitsuntide holidays.

**AMERICAN FOOD SUPPLIES FOR AUSTRIA.** The Ministry charged with the procurement and distribution of Austria's food supplies has announced that food provided by action of the U.S. Congress for the period of May 24-June 20 amounts to: 41,000 tons of flour, 3686 tons of fats, 3076 tons of legumes, 4152 tons of sugar, 956 tons of dried fruit, 343 tons of dried eggs, and 1500 tons of cereals.

**SUGGESTED CODIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.** Mr. Edward Ludwig, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Austrian Parliament, recently participated in the Hague European Congress and reported that one of the keystones of agreement lay in a definition of human rights as a basis for the preservation of democracy. Mr. Ludwig outlined the following principles as being necessary premises in any democratic scheme: independent courts accessible to all; a police controlled by the courts and not exempt from the law; freedom of thought, of speech and of the press; the right to minority opinions and the opportunity to express them; political power based on the sovereignty of the people.

**VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY ELECTS PRESIDENT.** The Vienna Jewish Religious Community, a public body, has elected as its new president Dr. David Schapira, Attorney. Dr. Emil Maurer, Attorney, and Mr. Joseph Rubin Bittmann were named vice-presidents. The newly elected president made a statement emphasizing the traditional ties and loyalty of the Jewish community to the Austrian Republic, and pledging the cooperation of his group in the reconstruction of Austria.

**DISPLACED PERSONS IN AUSTRIA.** As of May, 1948, the displaced persons population of Austria stands at approximately 600,000. For a nation of 7 million people, the presence of so many displaced persons constitutes a problem of some magnitude. The figures for displaced persons are broken down as follows: German Nationals (Volksdeutsche) from Czechoslovakia and Hungary, 138,000; Volksdeutsche from Yugoslavia, Rumania and Bulgaria, 200,000; Reichs Germans, 51,000; former citizens of the section of the Tyrol acquired by Italy at the end of the first World War, 51,000; Jews, 20,000; others, non-German-speaking, 138,000.

Many displaced persons have already left. It is expected that of the remaining groups, the German citizens, the Jews and the former Tyrolians will leave soon. According to Potsdam, the 138,000 displaced persons of German descent from Hungary and

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Czechoslovakia will be moved to Germany as soon as conditions there permit their maintenance. Only 18%, or from 40,000 to 50,000 of the displaced persons in Austria, are in camps. Many of those not in camps have found employment, and are being absorbed into the Austrian social framework and economy. The 138,000 displaced persons who do not speak German present the most difficult problem. Recently there has been reported a considerable influx of refugees from Czechoslovakia, who are not included in the above figures.

EXTRADITION OF VON PAPEN REFUSED. The Austrian government has received a note from the Allied Control Council refusing to grant extradition of Von Papen, German Ambassador to Austria in the years immediately preceding the German invasion, as a war criminal. The note explained that Von Papen had already been convicted by a German de-Nazification court, and was at present serving a term in prison.

FORMER NAZI JUDGES EXECUTED. Three former members of a Nazi court, Johann Braun, Johann Wallner, and Josef Weninger, were hanged in Vienna on May 15th. They were convicted of condemning to death many Austrians from the industrial center of Neunkirchen who had opposed the Nazi regime.

THREE NAZIS CONDEMNED TO DIE IN GRAZ. Following hearings that lasted for 7 weeks, three former Nazi party leaders were condemned to die for attempts to revive outlawed Nazi organizations. Former party speaker Theodore Soucek, former training leader, Dr. Hugo Roessner, and Amon Goeth, a technician and former Hitler Jugend leader, had tried to revive Nazi organizations and hired assassins in Graz in anticipation of what they hoped would be a new war. Soucek was also accused of theft, and the two others of Black Market operations. A number of others, convicted of similar crimes, received lighter sentences: former SA leader Dr. Franz Klinger, convicted of Nazi activities and fraud, received a 20-year sentence; former administrator of the Nazi party, Anton Sehnert, 18 years for Nazi activities and Black Market operations; former SS Sergeant-Major Friedrich Schiller, 10 years for Nazi activities.

FIRST POSTWAR CONGRESS OF AUSTRIAN TRADE UNIONS. The Austrian Trade Union Congress was resumed this year for the first time since the German invasion. Delegates represented a total membership of 1,238,000 trade unionists. When the Congress was initiated, in 1893, 130 labor organizations with a strength of 33,000 members were represented. Chancellor Figl, in an address to the meeting, said that political parties had an obligation to consider the needs of labor, and that these needs had to be evaluated in relation to the economy as a whole. He recommended that labor concentrate on its primary objective, the improvement of economic conditions. Over and above this objective, said Chancellor Figl, labor unions played an important role in providing educational and cultural opportunities for their members. He went on to point out that existing Austrian social legislation provided an excellent framework within which labor could achieve progress. The Chancellor stated that the nature of Austrian industry, consisting as it does of many small enterprises, precluded any need for state capitalism.

Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf, leader of the Socialist Party, commended the non-partisan character of the Austrian Trade Union Association. He praised free unions as an instrument of democracy and a tool for maintaining labor's rights and freedom.

A number of foreign guests attended the Congress, among them two Americans, Irving Brown, AFL, and Michael Ross, CIO. The two Americans expressed satisfaction that the Austrian labor

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movement was thoroughly democratic, and expressed regret that the importance of this movement and of the Austrian Socialist party was not yet fully understood in America. They were especially impressed by the cooperation between the Socialists and the Volkspartei in the government, and thought other western European countries which they had visited would do well to emulate Austria in this respect. They noted as a particular example of the democratic spirit of the Austrian labor movement the fact that communists were given full opportunity to express their opinions at the convention, even though representing a very small minority of workers. During their stay, the American delegates visited Bundeskanzler Figl and members of his government.

AUSTRIA'S ECONOMY IN 1947. The Austrian Central Statistical Office reports the following figures for 1947: Employment for the year averaged 1,846,000, with a low of 1,799,000, and a high of 1,886,000. The number of unemployed seeking work averaged 53,479, an extremely low figure for a country of this size, and far lower than prewar figures. Coal production was more than 3 million tons, about 88% of the 1937 output. In view of the total coke and coal consumption of 6.35 million tons, large imports were necessary. Electric power stood at 166.4% of prewar; consumption of electricity at 184.5%. However, domestic power production of over 3 billion kilowatt hours exceeded domestic consumption by about 400 million kwh. Other figures are: iron ore: 884,000 tons, 47% of prewar; copper ore: 16,962 tons, 235% of 1937; paper: 113,000 tons, 49%; wood pulp: 43,000, 39%; cellulose: 68,000 tons, 22%. These last three figures are especially important, considering the world-wide paper shortage, and since much of Austria's contribution to ECA will consist of paper and pulp products. Total imports for 1947 were valued at 1.191 billion schillings, and exports at 842 million schillings, leaving an import excess of 348 million schillings. The excess results largely from purchases of food and raw materials. There is a promising export surplus in live animals of 3 million schillings, and in manufactured products of 352.5 million schillings. Another new export product is synthetic nitrogen fertilizer of which American occupation forces bought 100,000 tons in 1946. Sugar production, which before the war was sufficient for domestic needs, has dropped from 180,000 tons to 36,000 tons. Textile goods and leather are still scarce. Figures for March, 1948, show encouraging increases in two categories: iron ingots, 138% of prewar, and steel, 91%. Aside from government purchases, Austria showed a favorable trade balance with the U. S. in 1947. Imports amounted to 40,183,000 schillings, and exports to 44 million. Trade with Great Britain totalled 109 million schillings worth of imports and exports to the extent of 45,437,000. Once the occupation has ended, Austria expects to be able to supply all her own fuel oil needs, with a small margin for export. Much of the retardation in production is blamed on the disruption of normal internal trade patterns by the division of the country into four zones.

NEW HOUSING PROJECT IN VIENNA. Vienna's first postwar housing project, the Albin Hansson Settlement, is already under construction and a second one has recently been launched. The new project consists of 58 2-story, 4-apartment, houses, planned for small families, and 89 1-family dwellings. Each apartment is provided with a small plot of ground for a vegetable garden, as well as a coop for small animals. At the dedication ceremonies, Gen. Koerner, the Mayor of Vienna, announced the city's determination to provide homes for its workers, and that further houses would be forthcoming in keeping with the tradition of pre-Hitler years.

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LOWERED PRICES IN AUSTRIA. According to a report by the Institute for Economic Research, prices on both the open and Black market have been steadily declining recently, due largely to the recent currency reform which has reduced the amount of free schillings in the hands of consumers. The discrepancy between official government prices and prices on the open market has in many cases become so negligible as to permit consideration of lifting controls. In some cases, indeed, maximum prices set by the government have acted as a brake on further reductions. With limited amounts of currency in circulation, supply in some categories has begun to exceed demand, and merchants are once again competing for the patronage of customers with improvements in services and quality.

There are still serious discrepancies, however, between official prices and Black Market prices for certain food essentials. Even the Black Market, however, has experienced price reductions due to currency reforms. Here are a few sample prices for food commodities (the first figure is the official government price in schillings, the second the Black Market price in February, the third the Black Market price in April): Butter--12.8, 140, 60; Chocolate--30, 300, 100; Veal--9.12, 70, 35; Pork--12-15, 80, 50; Rice--6, 80, 35; Dried Milk--4.4, 200, 75; Fresh Milk-- .64, 7, 5; Lard--9, 150, 70; Coffee--7.85, 220, 100.

EXPANSION OF ELECTRICAL OUTPUT. Vorarlberg, besides being a center for the production of milk and textiles, is also a center of electrical power output. In view of the importance of electricity to European reconstruction, plans are under way to double the power output of Vorarlberg. Some of Vorarlberg's electricity is already being exported to Germany and Liechtenstein. The Illwerke Corporation operates three plants capitalized at 80 million schillings. At present, the State of Vorarlberg owns a 5% interest in the Illwerke facilities, and 80 years after resumption of production, the plant will become state property. After completion of construction projects, the annual capacity of the Illwerke corporation is expected to reach 1 billion kilowatt hours.

CHANCELLOR CALLS FOR EARLY RETURN TO FREE ECONOMY. In an address before a combined meeting of business organizations in Vienna, Chancellor Leopold Figl expressed hope for an early return to a free economy and an end to government regulation of markets and prices. He pointed out that although a number of controls had been necessary in the war and postwar periods, practical experience had amply demonstrated that an economy dependent on government rulings and direction was less dynamic and also less efficient than a free economy. Now, with production rising and prices dropping, Chancellor Figl believes that business controls based on governmental theories are becoming a hindrance to full recovery.

At the same meeting, Minister of Commerce, Dr. Kolb, called for increased exports, since foreign exchange is badly needed for the purchase of foodstuffs. Dr. Kolb anticipated that increased agricultural production would lessen the strain on foreign currency reserves, but stated that incentives were still needed to stimulate farm output. Before the war, Austria had the greatest proportional volume of international trade in Europe, amounting to about \$120 per person, compared with a figure of \$80 for the U.S., \$82 for Czechoslovakia, \$107 for England, \$109 for France, and \$100 for Germany. The eastern European nations since the war have failed to ship foodstuffs to Austria or to buy Austrian manufactured goods in large quantities. Dr. Kolb expects that future Austrian trade orientation will tend toward the west.

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**EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN AUSTRIA.** At present there are 4174 grade schools and 565 high schools operating in Austria, serving a total of 743,000 pupils. During the war, 100 grammar school buildings and 44 secondary school building were destroyed. Since the war, 48 elementary school buildings and 39 high school buildings have been taken over for purposes other than education. Of Austria's 13,600 public school teachers, 8300 are women.

**AUSTRIAN BIRTH STATISTICS.** In 1947, 128,953 children were born in Austria. 66,774 were boys, 62,179 girls. 102,858 were born to married mothers, and 26,095 out of wedlock. 116,222 were born to Austrian families, 12,731 to foreigners in Austria. Children born in 1947 total 1.8% of the population, an increase from 1946's 1.6%. This is the highest figure since 1926.

**MARRIAGE STATISTICS.** The trend in marriage frequency is again rising following a severe wartime slump. In 1937, before the German invasion, there were 46,289 marriages. Thereafter, the figures rose rapidly until 1939, when they reached 117,000. They then declined to a 1945 low of 31,000 and by 1947 had recovered to 73,842.

**INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOBILE SALON.** For the first time since the war, an International Automobile Salon was held in Vienna in May, drawing an attendance of 70,000 visitors. Austrian trucks, motorcycles and busses were displayed, along with well-known makes of cars from all countries. Buyers from Latin America, Britain, France, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia gave orders for Austrian vehicles and automotive equipment on this occasion.

**RAILROAD FARES REDUCED.** The Austrian Government has made a general reduction of railroad fares of from 12 to 22%. Reductions as high as 25% are given on round trip tickets for Sunday and holiday travel when trips are in excess of 300 km. It is hoped that these reductions will serve to stimulate tourist travel in Austria.

**REGULATIONS FOR VISITORS TO AUSTRIA.** Citizens of the occupying powers who wish to visit Austria must make arrangements through their own military authorities. Citizens of other countries must apply through the nearest Austrian consulate or legation, but authorization to visit Austria is granted only by the Allied Control Council, and, as a result, extended delays are customary.

**UNESCO THEATER INSTITUTE.** Austria will participate in the International Theater Congress to be held under UNESCO sponsorship in Prague, June 27-July 5. In the fall, there will be organized in Vienna a National Center for the International Theater Institute.

**STERLING CREDITS FOR BOOK PURCHASES.** An agreement between the British government and Austrian book dealers now enables Austrians to purchase with schillings any book published in Great Britain. More than 40,000 volumes valued at 20,000 pounds sterling have already been sold. There has been an increasing interest in English letters among Austrian intellectuals, which has been largely thwarted for some years by the lack of foreign funds. Austrian schools and educators have suffered from a lack of books since the importation of German technical and scientific works was stopped. Great Britain has recognized these needs and seen an opportunity to create new understanding between the two countries by supplying sterling in exchange for schillings for this purpose. A special catalog, British Books to Come, is distributed monthly to bookstores and libraries. To date, England is the only English-speaking country to make such an arrangement.

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**EARLY FRESCOES DISCOVERED.** Previously unknown frescoes dating back to medieval times have been discovered in both ecclesiastical and civil structures in Carinthia, in the British Occupation Zone. Paintings from the second half of the 14th century, on the wall of a church in Tigring have already been restored. These frescoes depict the entombment of Christ, the creation of Eve, Original Sin, and the creation of the sun and the moon. In the City Hall at Spittal, frescoes showing peasants paying tribute have been uncovered. The Gothic period is represented by frescoes found in a cemetery church in Feistritz. Other recently discovered frescoes are in St. Ulrich and other villages of the Drau Valley.

**INTERNATIONAL POSTER EXHIBITION.** During August and September, there will be held an International Poster Exhibit, sponsored by the Society of Artists and the City of Vienna. Entries have already been received from Switzerland, Hungary, Italy, England, Czechoslovakia, the U.S. and Poland. Other posters are expected from the U.S.S. R., Sweden and Yugoslavia. Posters will be displayed in an open air street gallery, erected in 1947. This will give the public an opportunity to compare different national approaches to advertising art. The purpose of the exhibit, according to its organizers, is to promote good taste among advertisers, the public and artists. The street gallery system calls for posters to be displayed on display boards around the exhibition buildings and other buildings devoted to the arts. The city of Vienna has offered a prize for the best solution to the problem of a permanent open air gallery, to be hung with posters chosen by a jury of experts. In collaboration with the city, the Association of Graphic Artists wants to initiate a monthly competition, with awards going to the three best posters and selections being made of the three worst examples of bad taste.

**VIENNA DAYS IN SWEDEN.** In recognition of the generous contributions given by the Swedish cities of Stockholm and Gotesborg to Austrian post-war relief, Vienna Days celebrations have recently been held in those cities. The main event was an exhibition of Austrian art treasures. Speeches at the opening were made by Sweden's Minister President Erlander and the Austrian Minister of Education, Dr. Hurdes, emphasizing the international nature of the fine arts. Other events were an Austrian evening at the Royal Opera House, an organ concert at the Stockholm City Hall featuring works by Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert, exhibitions of Austrian trade and fashions and an auto race, with the proceeds going to charity.

**VIENNA OPERA IN BELGIUM.** Following performances in Paris and London, a travelling company of the Vienna State Opera presented Mozart's Così Fan Tutti in Antwerp, under the direction of Dr. Hilbert, the Austrian official in charge of the Vienna Opera. The performance was repeated in Brussels the following day, and was attended by the Queen Mother Elizabeth, officials of the Belgian government, and representatives of the diplomatic corps. The performance was acclaimed by Belgian critics as the most perfect operatic performance in their experience. Dr. Hilbert stated that the purpose of the tour was to demonstrate Austria's desire to reestablish itself as a center of culture, and the right of its claims to be an individual, independent nation.

**VIENNA PHILHARMONIC PERFORMANCE IN ZURICH.** The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra will give a concert under the direction of Wilhelm Furtwangler in honor of Franz Schubert in Zurich on July 8th. Other Viennese musicians will participate in the Zurich Music Festival. Hans Knappertsbusch will conduct performances of orchestral works by Haydn, Brahms and Dvorak. He will also direct State Theater presentations of Wagner's Walkure and Gotterdammerung, and Richard Strauss' Electra.

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VIENNA THEATER PRICES REDUCED. The Austrian government has announced price reductions in the theaters under its management. The best seats are now priced at 30 schillings, while good front seats in the galleries cost from 14 to 17 schillings. At the official rate of exchange of 10 schillings per dollar, these prices represent a real bargain in theater-going. The government operates the Vienna State Opera, whose world-famous home was almost completely ruined in the Battle for Vienna, the Burg and Akademie Theaters, and opera performances at the Redoutensaal. Pending reconstruction of the Opera House, State Opera performances are being given at the An Der Wien, the tiny theater where Mozart's Magic Flute had its premiere.

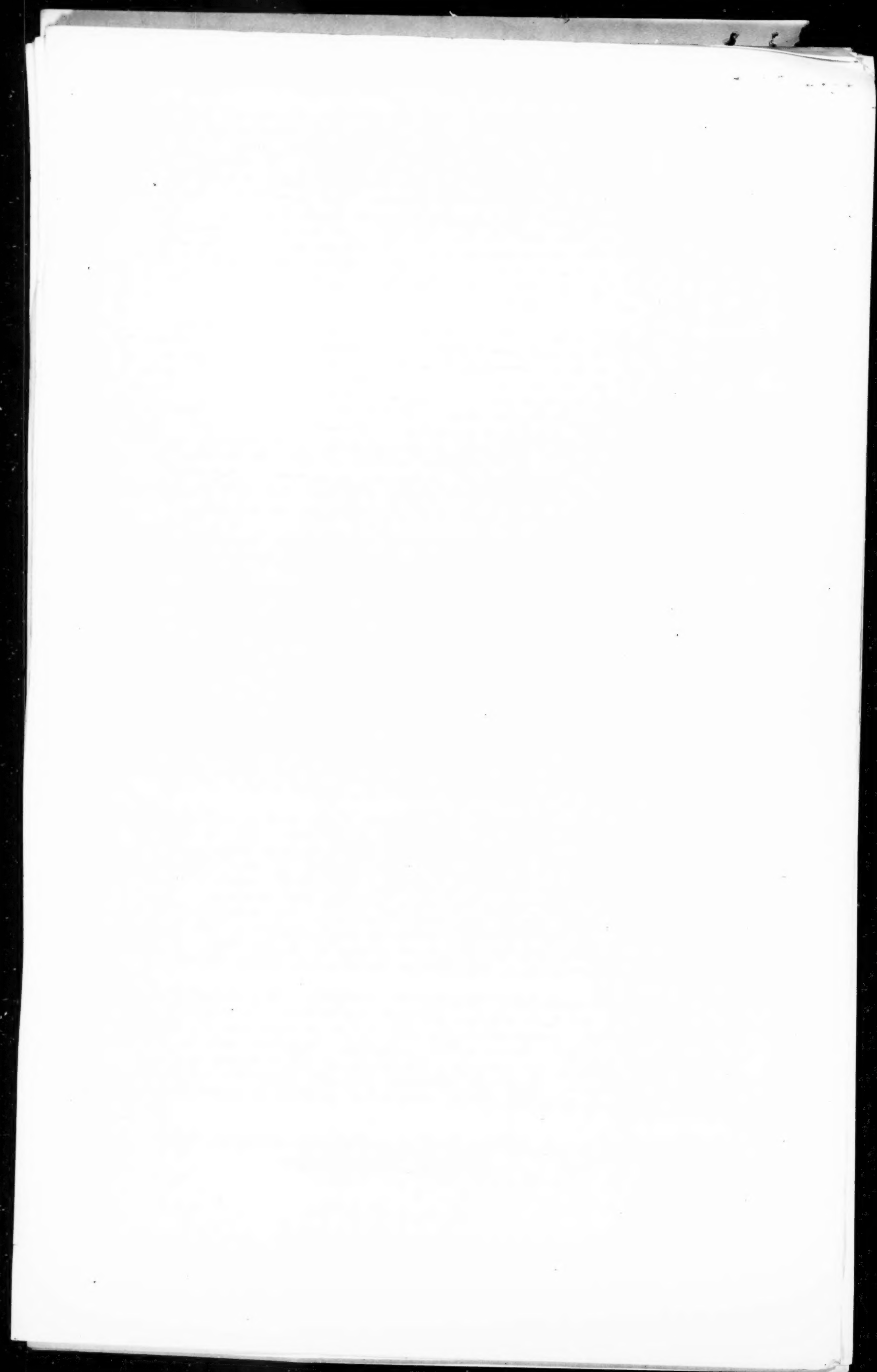
BRUNO WALTER REVISITS VIENNA. After an absence of ten years, Bruno Walter, the noted conductor has returned to Vienna, where he was greeted with a tremendous wave of official and popular enthusiasm. A major purpose of Dr. Walter's visit was to officiate at the restoration in the Vienna State Opera of the statue of Gustav Mahler, which had been removed by the Nazis. Following the ceremonies, Dr. Hurdes, Austrian Minister of Education, in a speech honoring Dr. Walter's contributions to Austria's musical institutions, made him an honorary member of the State Opera. So great was the public desire to attend a concert conducted by Dr. Walter that near-rioting broke out when the waiting crowds feared that there might not be enough seats to go around.

1948 SALZBURG FESTIVAL. The traditional Salzburg Festival will be held this year from July 28th to August 31st. The program features performances by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of such eminent conducts as Arthur Rodzinski, Wilhelm Furtwangler, Herbert Karajan, Edwin Fischer, Alceo Galliera and Hans Knappertsbusch, playing works by Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, Tchaikowsky, Debussy, Strawinsky, etc. Five chamber music recitals will be presented, and six performances by the Salzburg Dome Choir of religious music by Palestrina, Verdi, Mozart, Beethoven, Rossini, Bruckner, Faure and Gnegchi. The company of the Vienna State Opera will give performances of Beethoven's Fidelio, Gluck's Orpheus and Eurydice, Martin's Le Vin Herbe, and the Marriage of Figaro and Il Seraglio by Mozart. Plays by Hofmannsthal and Grillparzer will be produced, and a special performance, Four Centuries of Religious Music in France, will be given by the Cathedral Choir of Strassburg.

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL IN VIENNA. The annual International Music Festival will be held in Vienna from June 14th to 30th. Participating are the Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony and Budapest Philharmonic orchestras. The choirs of the Vienna State Opera and the Viennese Singing Academy will take part. Guest conductors are coming from England, Holland and Hungary. The program consists of eight symphony concerts, two evenings of choral music, and two evenings each of solo recitals and ballet. First performances will be given of works by Alban Berg, Malipiero, Kodaly, Benjamin Britten, Gottfried Einem, and Franz Schmidt.

MOTION PICTURES FEATURING STAATSOPER COMPANY. Sir Alexander Korda, representing a British motion picture syndicate, is negotiating with the Austrian government for the joint production of films featuring the Vienna State Opera company. English motion picture experts are seeking to create a new form of film opera under Korda's direction. They are looking for new operatic themes, and are also considering doing classical operas in modern versions.

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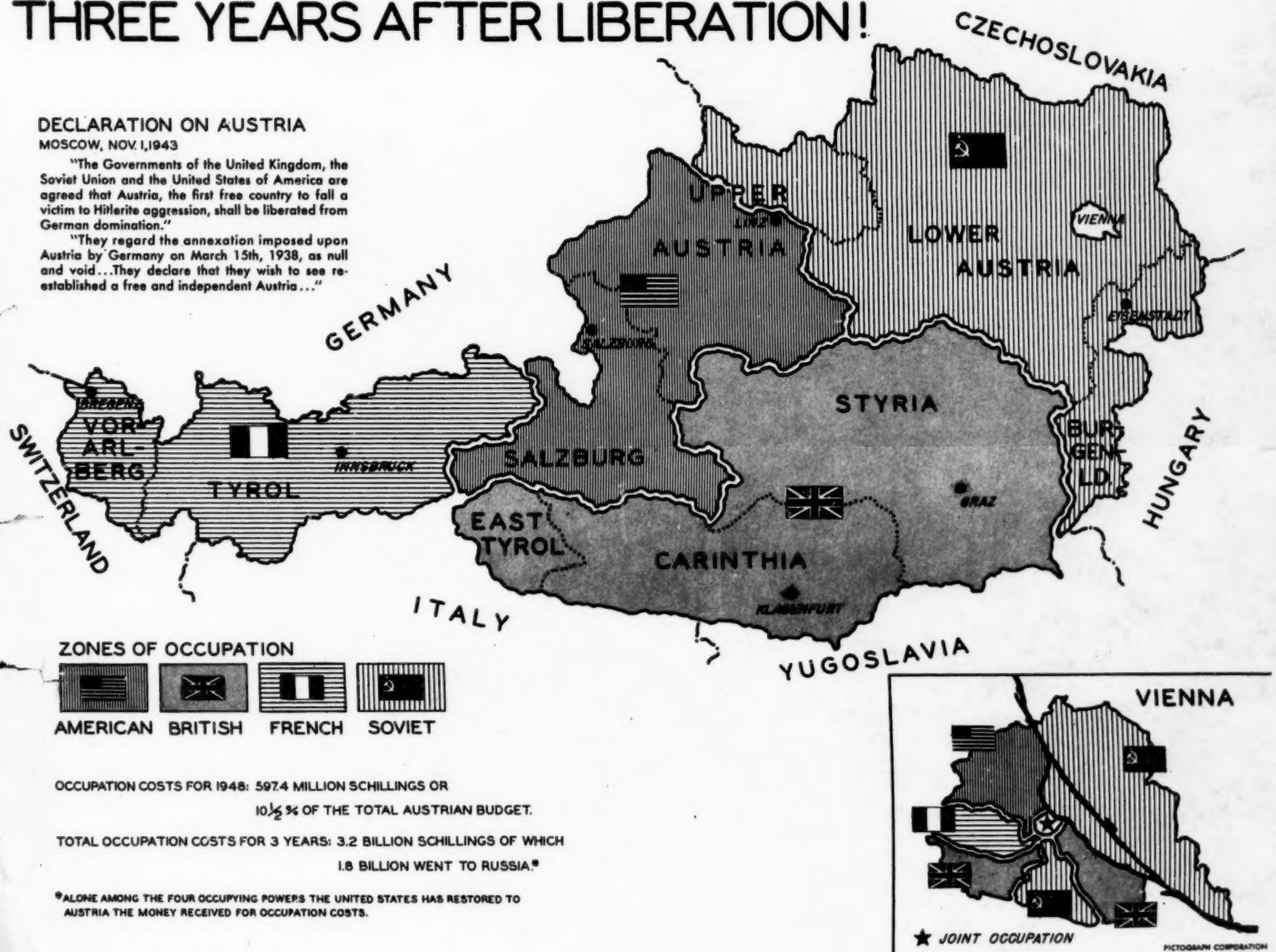
**NEW STAMP ISSUES.** The Austrian Post Office Department, long known for the beauty and variety of its stamps, issued two new series in May. One, featuring native Austrian flowers, has been issued to raise funds for tuberculosis victims. It is imprinted with two values: the postage denomination and an additional sum which goes to help sufferers from tuberculosis. The other new series includes five stamps depicting folk costumes from five regions of Austria noted for their folklore and history.

## THREE YEARS AFTER LIBERATION!

### DECLARATION ON AUSTRIA MOSCOW, NOV. 1, 1943

"The Governments of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and the United States of America are agreed that Austria, the first free country to fall a victim to Hitlerite aggression, shall be liberated from German domination."

"They regard the annexation imposed upon Austria by Germany on March 15th, 1938, as null and void...They declare that they wish to see re-established a free and independent Austria..."



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